

State of Connecticut
Public Health Committee

Written Testimony Opposing SB 374:

We are against Senate Bill 374, An Act Requiring Behavioral Health Assessments for Children. As homeschooling parents of 6, we feel this is both an invasion of privacy of our family, and an attempt on the state to usurp our parental rights to determine what is best for our children.

If this bill is an attempt to avoid another massacre like the December 14th tragedy, we sympathize, yet this enacting this law would not have saved the children. The killer had already been identified as mentally ill, and yet his mother was unable to obtain proper treatment for him. It seems that our limited state resources would be best spent on treating those identified as needing help. This would reduce the possibility that an unstable person would again take such an action.

The bill does not explain who would make these mental health examinations, what action would follow from them, who would have access to this private information, and who would pay for it. Also, it is unfair, targeting public school children and homeschooled children, but not private school children.

We believe that the state should leave the question of diagnoses to the parents and their freely chosen healthcare professionals, and concentrate on enforcing the laws it already has enacted.

Please do not waste scarce resources that could be used on treatment.

Sincerely,

Frances H. Morlino
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Danbury, CT